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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 24 January 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the decision of the heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States taken at Ashkhabad on 24 December 1993, I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the States members of the Commonwealth, to request under rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly".

In compliance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, enclosed with this letter is an explanatory note and a draft resolution.

(Signed) A. KOZYREV

ANNEX

Explanatory note

1. The present stage of development of international relations is marked by the growing political significance of regional and subregional agreements and associations of States. They are engaged in diversified activities. In many important and relevant spheres, such as social and humanitarian problems and cooperation for development, we witness closely concerted efforts undertaken by regional associations and the United Nations. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which has formed its organizational structure by adopting the Charter on 22 January 1993 is acquiring its particular place among such regional arrangements.

2. CIS and the United Nations have already started to cooperate. The first results of their cooperation demonstrate a meaningful potential of interaction between the Commonwealth and the universal international Organization on the basis of partnership, participation and complementarity of efforts.

3. As we see it, the time has come when mostly occasional contacts between CIS and the United Nations should be put on a more regular and orderly basis. This aim could be best achieved by the granting to the Commonwealth of observer status in the General Assembly. An act like that could actually strengthen interaction between CIS and the United Nations, enlarge their capabilities to promote peace, security and cooperation at both regional and global levels.

APPENDIX

Draft resolution: Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Noting the desire of the Commonwealth of Independent States to foster its cooperation with the United Nations,

1. Decides to invite the Commonwealth of Independent States to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer,

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution.